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The CASE of the Members of the *Sun-Fire-Office*, *London*, relating to the Duties on News-Papers,

Humbly repreſented to the Honourable Houſe of COMMONS,

SHEWETH,

THAT whereas they have for ſome Years laſt paſt erected and ſet up, with very great Expence and Trouble, (for the Benefit of the Public) an Office of Inſurance of Houſes, Goods, Merchandize, Furniture, and Wares, from Loſs by Fire, all over *Great Britain*; and have likewiſe oblig'd themſelves, by an Inſtrument or Policy upon Stamp'd Paper, under their Hands and Seals, to furniſh Weekly every Perſon Inſur'd with three printed News-Papers, call'd *The Britiſh Mercury*; and have in all Reſpects ſtrictly comply'd with a late Act of Parliament, intitul'd, *An Act for the better preventing Miſchiefs that may happen by Fire*, in entertaining and cloathing thirty Fire-Men now in their Service.

And they finding, by the printed Votes of this Honourable Houſe, a Reſolution for laying a Tax of one Penny upon every printed half Sheet of Paper, do humbly beg Leave to offer to this Honourable Houſe ſome Reaſons for allowing the ſaid Members, and their Aſſigns, Liberty to print and publiſh their ſaid Paper without any Stamp or Tax.

Firſt, For that the ſaid Members receive but half a Crown a Quarter of each Perſon Inſur'd; out of which one Shilling being reſerv'd towards anſwering each Sufferer's Loſs by Fire, only one Shilling and ſix Pence remains to the ſaid Members; and the Tax intended to be laid by this Honourable Houſe, will amount to three Shillings and three Pence each Quarter; whereby it appears they will not receive half ſo much as the Duty it ſelf amounts to, and conſequently will be unable to perform the Condition of their Policies, and thereby be in Danger of being ſu'd by many thouſands, who have already receiv'd Policies; and will likewiſe be render'd utterly uncapable to carry on an Undertaking ſo uſeful and beneficial to the Public.

Secondly, For that they do already pay a double Six-penny Stamp for each Policy, Transfer, and other Inſtruments, made Uſe of in the Courſe of carrying on the ſaid Office; which, with a Duty already lay'd, and to be lay'd, upon Paper, amount yearly to a very conſiderable Sum, by the Conſumption of great Quantities thereof in the ſaid Office; which will all be entirely loſt to the public Revenue, unleſs your Honours ſhall think fit to indulge them in ſuch Allowance as above deſir'd.

Thirdly, That there is no other Office of Inſurance of Houſes and Goods from Loſs by Fire, or any that extend all over *Great Britain*, except that of the *Sun-Fire-Office*; which has been found to be of great Service to the Public, and met with extraordinary Encouragement.

And foraſmuch as the ſaid Members have always taken Care that their ſaid Paper ſhould give no Offence to the Public, or any particular Perſon; nor do make any other Profit or Advantage of the ſaid Paper, other than for carrying on the ſaid Inſurance from Fire.

May it therefore pleaſe your Honours to grant the ſaid Members Leave to continue Printing and Publiſhing their ſaid Paper call'd The Britiſh Mercury, *publiſh'd by the Members of the* Sun-Fire-Office, London, *now enter'd in the Regiſter at* Stationers-Hall, *without the ſaid intended Stamp or Tax. And the ſaid Members, as in Duty bound, ſhall ever pray*, &c.

THE
CASE
OF THE

Members of the *Sun-Fire-Office, London,* relating to the Duties on News-Papers.

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